

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03902 260958Z

62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 TRSE-00 OES-03 DLOS-03

COME-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /030 W

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R 260915Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8921

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T TOKYO 3902

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PLOS, PFOR, CH, KS, US, TW,

SUBJECT: GULF PLANS TO DRILL NEAR SENAKU ISLAND

REF: STATE 1219

1. PACIFIC FULF OIL PRESIDENT M. SAITO, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXPLORATION, N. TAYLOR AND FULF CONSULTANT G. LEDINGHAM ASKED TO MEET WITH EMBOFF ON MARCH 26 TO DISCUSS GULF OF CHINA (WITH CHINA PETROLEUM CORPORATION AS 25 PERCENT PARTNER) PLANS FOR WODECO VIII TO TEST DRILL IN AREA G OF ZONE 2 (26N-30N BY 122-30E TO 123-30E), UNDER CONCESSION GRANTED BY GROC. GOJ MAINTAINS, HOWEVER, THAT SEA BOTTOM JURISDICTIONAL LINE CROSSES AREA G IN NORTH-SOUTH DIRECTION AT APPROXIMATELY 122-50E AND ACCORDINGLY HAS AWARDED DRILLING RIGHTS IN AREA INCLUDING THAT PART OF AREA G CLAIMED BY GOJ TO JAPAN EXPLORATION COMPANY (JAPEX).

2. TIMING OF AREA G DRILLING OPERATIONS BY WODECO VIII WILL DEPEND ON DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO DRILL TWO HOLES IN ROK CONCESSION AS SCHEDULED. IF PLANS FOR DRILLING IN LATTER CONCESSION POSTPONED, WODECO VIII WOULD BEGIN DRILLING IN AREA G IN MID-JUNE. IF ROK

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SECRET

PAGE 02 TOKYO 03902 260958Z

PORTION OF CSCHEDULED DRILLING RETAINED, OPERATIONS IN

AREA G WOULD BEGIN IN OCTOBER.

3. AS RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ DURING 1972 INCIDENT INVOLVING GERMAN EXPLORATION SHIP CHARTERED BY GULF, PACIFIC FEELS OBLIGESTED TO INFORM MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) OF ANY IMPENDING OPERATIONS INWATERS NEAR SENAKU ISLANDS. SAITO IS CONCERNED THAT STRONG GOJ REACTION AGAINST UNILATERAL GULF-CHINA/CPC DRILLING OPERATION WILL ENDANGER OTHER JAPAN/GULF PROJECTS, INCLUDING JOINT EXPLORATION WITH TEIKOKU OIL OF 73 MILLION ACRES OF CONCESSIONS AROUND JAPAN AND IN EAST CHINA SEA.

4. SAITO TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WANTED TO SUND OUT USG ATTITUDE INFORMALLY BEFORE MAKING RECOMMENDATION TO GULF OIL OR APPROACHING MITI. EMBOFF REITERATED STANDARD CAUTION ON DRILLING IN DISPUTED WATERS BUT AGREED TO SEEK DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR INFORMAL REPLY TO PACIFIC GULF'S INQUIRY AS TO USG ATTITUDE TOWARDS POSSIBLE DRILLING OPERATIONS IN AREA G.

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## Message Attributes

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